

Claims:

1. A method for matching an order of a homogenous good or service, comprising the steps of:
Receiving an active order including a plurality of characteristics;
Flattening the active order to derive a plurality of normalized dimensions;
Determining the existence of a matching order corresponding to the active order; and
Matching the active order with the matching order if the matching order exists.
2. A method for matching an order of a homogenous good or service, comprising the steps of:
Receiving an active order including a plurality of characteristics;
Flattening the active order to derive a plurality of normalized dimensions;
Determining the existence of a matching order corresponding to the active order; and
Passivating the active order if no matching order exists.
3. A method for matching an order of a homogenous good or service, comprising the steps of:
Receiving an active order including a name value pair;
Determining the existence of a matching order which includes an identical name value pair to that of the active order; and
Applying a rule based filter to determine whether the passive order matches the active order based upon a rule based criteria.

4. A method for matching an order of a homogenous good or service, comprising the steps of:
- Receiving an active order including a name-value pair;
 - Determining the existence of a passive order that includes an identical name value pair to that of the active order; and
 - Applying a rule based filter to determine whether the passive order matches the active order based upon a rule based criteria.
5. The method for matching an order of claims 1 and 2, wherein the plurality of characteristics includes one or more selected from the group of:
- price; quality; quantity; and time.
6. The method for matching an order of claims 1 and 2, wherein the flattening step includes mapping one or more of the plurality of characteristics to the plurality of normalized dimensions.
7. The method for matching an order of claims 1 and 2, wherein the plurality of normalized dimensions includes a set of orthogonal axes having a value from 0 to 1.
8. The method for matching an order of claims 3 and 4, wherein the determining step includes searching a set of passive orders stored in a database.
9. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the determining step includes the step of comparing the plurality of normalized dimensions for the active order with a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to determine whether an intersection occurs.

10. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the determining step includes a distance calculation between the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to evaluate relatively close matches for an order.

11. The method of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the distance calculation includes an iterative process of increasing a range associated with the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and comparing the increased range with a set of normalized dimensions for the passive orders to determine an intersection.

12. The method of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the passivating step includes storing the plurality of normalized dimensions for the active order in a data store.

13. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the name value pair includes data identifying the homogenous good or service and data relating to the value of the homogenous good or service.

14. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the determining step includes calculating an intersection between the plurality of normalized dimensions of the active order and a set of normalized dimensions of the matching order.

15. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, wherein the rule based filter rejects a match between the active and passive orders which include identical name value pairs.

16. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, further comprising the step of notifying an entity associated with the active/passive orders of their mutual existence if the distance calculation meets a predefined criteria.

17. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, further comprising the step of aggregating a set of orders.

18. The method for matching an order of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, further comprising the step of deaggregating and resubmitting a remainder order after a match has been completed.